

SENATE BILL No. 471

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 3-11-19.

Synopsis: Straight ticket voting pilot program. Establishes a straight ticket voting pilot program for the 2016 and 2018 general elections. Requires the secretary of state to designate three counties as straight ticket voting pilot counties based on county population. Requires a county designated as a straight ticket voting pilot county to remove from the ballot the option for a voter to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time or with one mark, except for candidates for presidential electors. Authorizes the secretary of state to adopt a process to allow counties to apply to be designated a straight ticket voting pilot county. Permits the secretary of state to revoke a county's designation as a straight ticket voting pilot county under certain circumstances.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

Schneider, Young R Michael

January 14, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections.



First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 471

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 3-11-19 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
- 2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 3 1, 2015]:
- 4 **Chapter 19. Straight Ticket Voting Pilot Program**
- 5 **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to a county designated as a straight**
- 6 **ticket voting pilot county under this chapter.**
- 7 **Sec. 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2016, the secretary of state**
- 8 **shall designate three (3) counties as straight ticket voting pilot**
- 9 **counties under this chapter.**
- 10 **(b) The three (3) counties to be designated under this section are**
- 11 **as follows:**
- 12 **(1) One (1) county having a consolidated city.**
- 13 **(2) One (1) county having a population of more than one**
- 14 **hundred thirty-five thousand (135,000), but less than one**
- 15 **hundred seventy-five thousand (175,000).**
- 16 **(3) One (1) county having a population of less than thirty**



thousand (30,000).

(c) The designation of a county as a straight ticket voting pilot county takes effect immediately unless otherwise specified by the secretary of state.

Sec. 3. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a county designated as a straight ticket voting pilot county shall remove from the ballot the option for a voter to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one (1) time or with one (1) mark, except for candidates for presidential electors.

(b) Straight ticket voting pilot counties shall conduct the pilot project during the 2016 and 2018 general elections.

Sec. 4. The secretary of state may adopt a process to allow counties to apply to be designated a straight ticket voting pilot county.

Sec. 5. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, a straight ticket voting pilot county shall administer an election during which the pilot project is conducted in accordance with federal law and this title.

Sec. 6. (a) The designation of a county as a straight ticket voting pilot county may be revoked by the secretary of state:

(1) following the filing of a request for revocation approved by the unanimous vote of the entire membership of the county election board (or the board of elections and registration established under IC 3-6-5.4) and signed by all the members of the board; or

(2) upon a determination by the secretary of state that the administration of the straight ticket voting pilot project within the county does not comply with federal or state law.

(b) If the designation of a county as a straight ticket voting pilot county is revoked in accordance with subsection (a), the secretary of state shall designate a replacement county as a straight ticket voting pilot county.

Sec. 7. The secretary of state may adopt guidelines to administer the straight ticket voting pilot program under this chapter.

Sec. 8. This chapter expires December 31, 2018.

